

Message Text

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73/50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 AGR-05

NASA-01 LAB-04 DOTE-00 INT-05 PPT-01 SCA-01 SY-05

OPR-02 PER-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 INSE-00 VO-03 CU-02 OES-03

PM-03 L-02 /082 W

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P R 191155Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3930

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CHIANGMAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CDR USSAG NKP

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3514

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 3 L N 10 A N D P A R A 4 S U B P A R A (B))

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LA

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRAVEL

1. LAO PRESSE IN LAO, BUT NOT IN FRENCH, OF MAY 19 CARRIED
FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRAVEL BY
VIENTIANE JOINT POLICE WHICH IS PURPORTEDLY TO IMPLEMENT
MAY 9 INSTRUCTION BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

A. DOMESTIC TRAVEL:

(1) PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TRAVEL FROM VIENTIANE TO OTHER

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PROVINCES ARE REQUESTED TO ASK PERMISSION FROM THE

JOINT POLICE FORCE (THE JOINT HEADQUARTERS AT NONG DUANG).

(2) THOSE WHO WANT TO TRANSIT THAILAND MUST GET PERMISSION FROM THE JOINT POLICE FORCE BEFORE THEY OBTAIN A BORDER PASS FROM THE VIENTIANE PROVINCIAL OFFICE.

B. TRAVEL ABROAD:

(1) FOR LATIANS:

(I) TRAVEL ABROAD BY LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT TO WHICH THEY BELONG.

(II) GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON VACATION MUST INFORM THE JOINT POLICE FORCE ABOUT WHERE THEY ARE GOING AND HOW LONG THEY WILL STAY IN THAT COUNTRY.

(III) LAO STUDENTS GRANTED SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE PGNU OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY ABROAD MUST HAVE AN OFFICIAL PAPER CERTIFIED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY.

(IV) LAO STUDENTS WHO WANT FURTHER STUDY ABROAD AT THEIR EXPENSE MUST HAVE CERTIFICATES FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRY AS WELL.

(V) THOSE WHO WANT MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD MUST HAVE PHYSICAL CERTIFICATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

(VI) BUSINESSMEN WHO WANT TO TRAVEL FOR BUSINESS MUST GET CERTIFICATES FROM THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

(2) FOR FOREIGNERS:

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE, AND CAMBODIAN NATIONALS ARE PROHIBITED DEFINITELY FROM TRAVELING ABROAD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS DATED MAY 13, 1975.

C. HOW TO OBTAIN A VISA:

(1) PERSONS WHO WANT TO TRAVEL INSIDE THE COUNTRY OR TO TRAVEL ABROAD MUST APPLY FOR A VISA IN PERSON AT THE JOINT POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS (NONG DUANG).

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS OF THE POLICE CHIEF DATED MAY 14, 1975, ALL THOSE RESIDING IN VIENTIANE AND HOLDING LAO PASSPORTS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING THEIR PASSPORTS IN FOR REVIEW AT THE JOINT POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS (NONG DUANG) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THOSE FAMILIAR WITH NORMAL COMMUNIST METHODS
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OF POPULATION CONTROL WILL NO DOUBT RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE REGULATIONS CITED ABOVE. AS OF YET THESE RULES APPLY ONLY TO THE VIENTIANE AREA BUT, IN TIME THEY WILL WITHOUT DOUBT BE EXTENDED TO THE REST OF THE KINGDOM. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT RULE B. (2) FOR FOREIGNERS STATES SIMPLY THAT CHINESE, VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS ARE PROHIBITED FROM TRAVELING. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THOSE CARRYING PASSPORTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE PGNU AND THOSE WITHOUT SUCH

DOCUMENTS. IF STRICTLY APPLIED AS WRITTEN, WHICH WE ASSUME IT WON'T BE, IT COULD CAUSE SOME SURPRISE TO AMBASSADORS KUO VING AND LE VAN HIEN.

4. THESE NEW RULES AND PROCEDURES ARE ALREADY HAVING EFFECT. FOLLOWING INCIDENTS IN IMMIGRATION/EMIGRATION FIELD WERE ALL REPORTED MAY 19:

A) AMCIT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE REPORTED THAT HE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST INITIAL DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING AN EXIT VISA, SOMETHING THAT HERETOFORE HAD BEEN ROUTINE. (WE DO NOT YET KNOW OUTCOME OF THIS CASE; WILL ADVISE.)

B) CORRESPONDENT JACQUES LESLIE OF L.A. TIMES WAS TOLD HE NEEDED LETTER FROM EMBASSY TO OBTAIN EXTENSION OF HIS VISA; HERETOFORE CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN SUCH EXTENSIONS MERELY BY SHOWING PRESS CREDENTIALS. (WE WROTE THE LETTER, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY DECLINED TO DO SO FOR "WORLD TRAVELERS.")

C) ACCORDING TO RELIABLE AMERICAN SOURCE, 60 OR MORE ETHNIC HMONG WHO ATTEMPTED TO CROSS MEKONG AT THADDEUA WERE SINGLED OUT BY PATHET LAO ELEMENTS OF MIXED POLICE NOW PERFORMING IMMIGRATION DUTY THERE AND WERE TRUCKED BACK TO LPF INSTALLATION AT FORMER SOMBOUN LYCEE, WHERE THEY ARE EVIDENTLY BEING DETAINED.
CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-0577
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabhtj.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESTRICTIONS ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRAVEL
TAGS: PINS, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006